

December 19, 2004

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, Room 1601
Rockville, MD 20852

re: Docket numbers 1996P-0418, 1997P-0197, 1998P-0203 and 2000N-050
RIN number 0910-AC14

To Whom It May Concern,

You are no doubt painfully aware of how poorly your agency is performing in connection with drug safety. You also appear to be behind the curve on food matters as well.

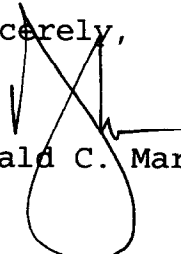
To be sure, factory farms are conceptually a productivity dream come true but their unintended consequences, the public health risks from compromised immune systems from practices like forced molting, should be understood and eliminated.

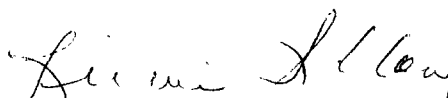
The United States must protect its food supply but not forget that quality not merely quantity is paramount to being competitive in a global economy. Inducing faster egg production from birds by lowering immunity to disease is a public health threat and bioterrorism vulnerability, to say nothing of the food quality lowering it foreshadows and the distraction to finding other productivity or quality improvements that it constitutes.

Encourage your regulated constituencies to engage in practices that balance productivity, quality, disease-free and contagion-resistant interests and not merely those that contribute to short-term profit.

Thank you for considering our point of view.

Sincerely,


Donald C. Marro


Lillian S. Clancy

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